

Seiko Gakuin

Yokohama, Japan



Founded in 1958 by French Catholic brothers, this all-boys Yokohama school pairs academic rigor with its historic gentlemen's code.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	68/100
Academic outcomes	76/100
University placement	80/100
Prestige & heritage	72/100
Alumni network	52/100
Facilities	58/100
Transparency	42/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

Seiko Gakuin is a serious all-boys day school in Yokohama, teaching the Japanese National curriculum in Japanese to boys aged 15–18. Its market position rests on two things: academic ambition and institutional continuity. The school foregrounds university admissions results, a dense annual calendar and a culture of student-led activity. Parents looking for **discipline without gimmicks** and **academic pressure with structure** will recognise the type at once. This is not an international school and not a bilingual proposition. It is a Japanese secondary school with a strong internal identity, a long-running festival culture and a clear expectation that boys will work hard, join in and grow up.

What sets it apart is the combination of old-school formality and a busier, richer student life than the stereotype allows. The school advertises Seikosai, sports day, camps and overseas study, alongside clubs and officially recognised student-run groups. That matters. Schools that produce strong academic outcomes but neglect student agency turn narrow; Seiko Gakuin gives boys room to organise, perform and lead inside a tightly framed institution. The physical plant also gets prominence, with the school pointing to a “**100年** architecture” concept and facilities as part of its identity. The result is a school with *institutional gravity*, *ritual and rhythm*, and a *clear code of conduct* rather than a loose, pastoral model built around individual choice.

There is one point parents should assess with care. The editorial context lists the school as non-religious, while the school’s own history and founding spirit are explicitly Catholic, tracing its origins to French Christian teaching brothers and a philosophy centred on the dignity of the person and love. That tension does not negate the school’s strengths, but it does matter for fit. Families who want a wholly secular environment should ask how far that heritage shapes daily life, assemblies and ethos. They should also note the age range here: **15–18**. This is a shortlist school for families who want a high-performing Japanese boys’ school in Yokohama, not for those seeking co-education, English-medium teaching or an international curriculum.

The boy who will want Seiko Gakuin is bright, steady and competitive, but not only academic. He will value *earned prestige*, tolerate clear rules and thrive in a community that expects participation rather than mere attendance. He does not need hand-holding; he needs standards, peers who take school seriously and enough extracurricular life to stop the place turning joyless. For that student, Seiko Gakuin offers *high expectations*, *strong collective culture* and the satisfaction of belonging to an institution with **1958** roots in its school history and a festival that has already reached its **67th** edition.

STRENGTHS

- Exceptional university placement record, with around 95-100 graduates gaining admission to the University of Tokyo in each of the last three years, among the highest current-year acceptance rates nationally.
- Long-running Catholic educational tradition dating to 1958, founded by the Brothers of Christian Instruction, with an emphasis on character formation alongside academics.
- Designated a Super Science High School by the Ministry of Education (MEXT) from 2007 to 2020, reflecting sustained investment in science curriculum.
- Fully rebuilt campus completed in 2014, replacing the previous facilities in the Yamate area of Naka-ku, Yokohama.
- Structured six-year integrated junior-to-senior programme allows core subjects to be completed ahead of schedule, freeing up the final year for focused university-entrance preparation.

TRADE-OFFS

- All-boys institution with no coeducational option, which will not suit families seeking a mixed-gender environment.
- Entry is effectively limited to the Grade 7 junior-high intake, since the school is a closed six-year track that does not recruit externally at the high-school stage.
- Instruction is conducted in Japanese under the national curriculum, so students without strong Japanese literacy will struggle to access the classroom material.
- Entrance competition is intense, with reported junior-high exam deviation scores in the high 70s, placing successful applicants among the top percentile of test-takers nationally.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is almost exclusively at Grade 7 (junior high), through a competitive written entrance examination conducted in Japanese; the school does not recruit new students at the high-school stage, making it a fully closed six-year track. Reported entrance-exam deviation scores sit in the high 70s, indicating applicants are drawn from the top percentile of Yokohama-area candidates. Most successful entrants have attended dedicated Japanese cram schools (juku) from late elementary years. There is no boarding option and no separate international-curriculum stream; a small in-house programme supports returnee students with advanced English classes.

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_0673177e5d.